

MEETING OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTS EXPERTS

To be held at the Château de la Muette, Paris,
from Wednesday 25th May to Friday 27th May 1983
commencing at 10.30 a.m. on the first day

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Agenda and organisation of the discussion.
2. Pension and life insurance transactions
The document DES/NI/83.8 prepared by an OECD consultant Ms. J. Saint-Sernin, is a background paper which describes the arrangements for providing retirement benefits in eleven OECD countries. Participants from these countries will be invited to give, orally or in writing, any corrections or amplifications that may be necessary. Participants from countries not covered in the paper are invited to provide a short description of the arrangements for retirement benefits in their countries.

The paper DES/NI/83.7, prepared by Nancy D. Ruggles and Richard Ruggles is the main discussion paper for this item of the agenda. It will be introduced by two discussants - Ms. C. Carson of the United States Bureau of Economic Analysis, and Mr. M. Lockyer of the United Kingdom Central Statistical Office.

The Secretariat will prepare a written report on the discussion of this topic which will identify the points where a consensus is reached in favour of the existing SNA approach or of an alternative treatment. Participants will have an opportunity to approve this report before the end of the meeting.

3. The use of "building blocks" in national accounting

Messrs. Van Eck, Gorter and Van Tuinen of the Netherlands Central Bureau of Statistics have prepared a paper on this subject, entitled "Flexibility in the System of National Accounts", DES/NI/83.5. The paper will be introduced by two discussants, Mr. H. Lutzel of the German Statistisches Bundesamt and M. P. Teillet of INSEE, France.

4. Treatment of interest

Mr. P. Sunga of Statistics Canada has prepared a paper for this topic, DES/NI/83.6, entitled "An Alternative to the Current Treatment of Interest in the United Nations System of National Accounts". It will be introduced by two discussants, Mr. A. Franz of the Statistisches Zentralamt of Austria, and Mr. A. Tengblad of Statistics Sweden.

5. Quarterly National Accounts

The Secretariat has prepared a short discussion paper, DES/NI/83.4, entitled "SNA Guidelines on Quarterly National Accounts". The note is intended to promote discussion on the uses of quarterly national accounts and the relative priorities of compilation, so that the OECD Secretariat can draft new guidelines for possible inclusion in a revised version of the SNA.

6. Financial leasing

This topic has already been debated in some detail both at the OECD and the SOEC. The OECD Secretariat, in collaboration with the SOEC, has prepared a note DES/NI/83.9, entitled "Financial Leasing", which suggest solutions to some minor problems that were left unresolved in the previous discussions.

7. National accounts questionnaire

The Secretariat will invite suggestions on ways to reduce the reporting burden on Member countries in supplying national accounts statistics to the Secretariat. Participants will be asked to indicate which parts of the OECD/UN questionnaire are most burdensome to complete. It must be emphasized, however, that the national accounts questionnaire is used by the United Nations Statistical Office as well as the OECD, so that any reduction in the amount of detail requested would also have to be agreed to by the UNSO.

8. Other business